

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2704
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
REGROUPING OF MILITANTS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any regrouping of militants in POK as reported in the `Times of India` February 21, 2002;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) There have been reports suggesting regrouping and relocation of terrorists to Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir from some parts of Pakistan.

(b)&(c) Despite its profession of support to the international coalition against terrorism, it is increasingly clear that Pakistan seeks to continue its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. Pakistan has sought to pass-off cosmetic half measures, non-measures and fictitious incidents against terrorist groups, as a so called crack down against terrorist groups operating from its territory and territories under its control. However, Pakistan's real approach to the issue of cross-border terrorism was clearly indicated by the President of Pakistan in a public address on 5th February 2002. In his address the President of Pakistan reiterated Pakistan's time-worn and untenable formulations on terrorism and also sought to justify the continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir.

Government rejects this outright, and are firmly resolved to resist cross border terrorism until it is defeated. The international community has also been strongly supportive of India's approach; the widespread consensus in the international community is that there is no justification for terrorism which must be eradicated wherever it exists.